

REMARKS

The Advisory Action mailed March 26, 2003 indicated that the proposed amendments in the Response to Final Office Action mailed on March 3, 2003 were not entered. The Examiner further indicated in phone conversations on April 4, 2003 and April 17, 2003 and in an Advisory Action mailed April 8, 2003 that the proposed amendments in the Supplemental Response to the Final Office Action mailed on March 4, 2003 were not entered.

The Examiner indicated that the amendments in the Response to the Final Office Action mailed on March 3, 2003 would place the claims listed in that Response in condition for allowance provided that Claim 6 would be cancelled in a later response. Per the above phone conversations in April 2003, the amendments and claims listed in this Supplemental Response is in compliance with the Examiners instructions to place the remaining pending claims listed above in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Status of Claims as of Final Office Action of Jan 3, 2003

Claims 1-5, 7-15, 20-23 and 30 have been allowed.

Claims 16-19 have been cancelled.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,323,699 to Quiet ("Quiet").

Claims 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,517,109 to Albean et al. ("Albean").

Claims 27-29 stand objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 1-15 and 20-30 remain pending upon entry of the above amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter in Claims 27-29

Claims 27-29 stand objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action states that the objected claims "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim". Claims 27-29 have hence been rewritten in independent form as suggested in the Office Action. Therefore, the objections to Claims 27-29 have been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Claim 6 is hereby cancelled to obviate the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 24-26 are cancelled to obviate the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejections.

Claim 30 has been previously indicated to have allowable subject matter. Claim 30 is currently amended as an independent claim to include the features of the cancelled base claims. Hence, the amended Claim 30 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and asks that all pending claims be allowed.

The foregoing comments made with respect to the positions taken by the Examiner are not to be construed as acquiescence by the Applicant with other positions of the Examiner that have not been explicitly contested. Accordingly, Applicants' arguments

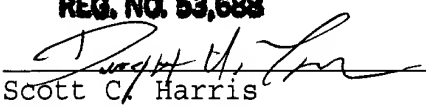
for patentability of a claim should not be construed as implying that there are no other valid reasons for patentability of that claim or other claims.

No fees are believed to be due with this response. Please apply any applicable charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06 1050.

Respectfully submitted,

/BY
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